The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

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Employers Disrupted Conference; Wanted Long End In Bargaining

Washington, Nov. 1.—The collapse of the president's industrial conference was the logical result of the employers' opposition to collective bargaining with a string.

The manufacturing group of the employers came into the conference with a so-called "open" shop declaration and favoring means to settle disputes with no provision for arbitration and with the explicit statement that the management must not be interfered with in the exercise of its "inherent" function of judgment and direction." This means that the employers demanding the absolute and complete control of wages, hours and working conditions, as against the trade unions' demand that workers be given a voice in these proceedings.

The employers also declared that each individual establishment, rather than the industry as a whole, should be, as far as practicable, considered the unit of production, and that, "only experimentation and adaptation" plans should be worked out for the co-operation of employer and employed.

In other words, the management of each plant would negotiate with its employes without regard to other plants. The employers' company "unions" would supplant trade unions that now speak for an industry. The employers, by refusing to recognize their employers' associations and deal with the various crafts and not as a whole, while they would insist that their employes be split into small shop units.

Industrial engineers, so-called "experts," economists, "efficiency" engineers and publicity agents of every description and kind aided the employers in a strategy that was intended to give labor the shadow of collective bargaining and withhold the substance. But the workers insisted on the genuine article. They demanded that they be treated as equals. They refused to accept the theory of the lords and industrial barons which the employers' group assumed.

This assumption of the employers was again emphasized when they rejected this resolution by President Gompers:

"The right of wage earners to organize without discrimination, to bargain collectively, to be represented by representatives of their own choosing in negotiations and adjustments with employers in respect to wages, hours of labor and relations and conditions of employment is recognized."

While the employers succeeded in defeating the workers' attempt to establish the right of being treated as equals, they realize that the question is not settled. In a statement to the press issued by the chairman of the employers' group he said the Gompers' resolution was defeated by a vote of 10 to 4.

In the conference the employers who were represented by the unions presented a clear-cut proposition.

The employers did not want to surrender control of their employes. Hence their claim opposition to collective bargaining not by direct methods, but by camouflaging the steel trust's resolution which called for "company made-to-order "unions."

The employers favored "collective bargaining" but along rules laid down by them. Judge Gary expressed this idea when, in his testimony before the senate strike, he said:

"I believe in conciliation, co-operation and arbitration whenever practicable without sacrificing principle."

"AUTOCRACY'S SNARLS DON'T FRIGHTEN US"---Gompers

Washington, Nov. 1.—"The industrial autocrats who applauded us during the war and who now snarl and growl at us are not frighten us nor cause us to change our course. I am willing to share the enmity of those who oppose us. I am willing to share the responsibility of the errors and mistakes of my fellows."

In a defiant spirit, indicated by the almost unanimous applause, Gompers stood before an audience of trade unionists and sympathizers that packed to the doors, Tuesday evening the largest hall in this city and notified reactionaries in this country that trade unionism is a forward and not a retreating movement.

The meeting followed a parade that opened the eyes of lawmakers and other influences that favor labor-shackling legislation. The parade consisted of nearly 40,000 workers, marshaled in abreast, with music, lights and artistic floats in honor of the president of the American Federation of Labor. The demonstration was under the auspices of the central labor union and was originally planned for President Gompers' return from Europe last May, but was postponed because of the trade unionists' bereavement in his home.

John Colpoys, acting mayor of Washington Trades Unionist as temporary chairman, introduced the chairman of the evening, Secretary of Labor Wilson.

President Gompers' speech was both an eloquent appeal for justice to the wage workers of our country and a defiance to the reactionaries. He gave notice that the trade union movement could not, be divided, and regardless of past mistakes of any member of organized labor, no breaks in our ranks would be countenanced to please industrial autocrats.

The reaction of certain employers bodes no good for our country," he said, in urging trade unionists to respond to the plea of striking steel workers for financial aid.

"The influence of labor," he said, "indicates that these strikers will win, if they can but give bread."

President Gompers spoke at length on the Cummins railroad bill, which he said, make strikes of railroad employes unlawful.

"This bill," the speaker declared, "would re-establish involuntary servitude in the United States. The sacrifices for which it was supposed instituted for industrial autocracy against which political autocracy is merely a side show. When the government took over the railroads the employes were free men. It is now proposed that the railroads be turned back and the employes shackled. Are we to learn nothing from the history and experiences of other peoples who tried to enforce involuntary servitude of labor? The difference between the slave and the free man is that the slave is forced to labor and the free man folds his arms and bears the consequences of his idleness.

"Constant vigilance is the price of liberty just as much now as the day Patrick Henry so first sounded it.

"Strikes should be avoided. So should wars. So should other contentions between men. No man apprehends struggle and warfare, but the workmen of the United States have the right to stop work when their interests compel them to strike."

Anti-Strike Bill Is Before Senate; Would Handcuff and Gag Workers

Washington, Nov. 1.—The Cummins railroad bill has been favorably reported to the senate by the committee on interstate commerce. It provides for the return of the railroads to their owners and penalizes striking railroad employes by fines not exceeding $500 or six months' imprisonment, or both. In addition, any individual who induces, counsels or procures the commission or performance of an act made illegal under the anti-strike provision shall be held guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the same penalties as a striker. Under this provision any one who insists that the anti-strike act should not be accepted, and if this sentiment developed in a strike, such opponent of the law would be equally guilty with the strikers.

As a member of the committee on interstate commerce Senator LaFollette announced that he dissented from the committee's recommendations and stated that when the committee filed its report he would submit a minority report.

The proposed law also provides for the creation of several boards and one committee. These are to be known as the transportation board, regional boards of adjustment and a committee of wages and working conditions.

The transportation board is absolute and there is no appeal from its decision on workers' grievances. It consists of five members, appointed by the president. Its main function is to arrange the railroads in competitive groups, to consolidate the railroads in the interest of service and to exercise a general supervisory character in questions outside the rate making powers of the interstate commerce commission.

The committee of wages and working conditions will consist of eight members equally divided between the managers and employes. The various railroad crafts may present nominations for membership on this committee and the transportation board will select from this list.

The regional boards of adjustment will consist of six members, equally divided between the employes and the managers. These boards shall adjust disputes regarding wages and working conditions, arising in the usual railroad operations, other than wages and working conditions, and which cannot be settled by the railroad and its employes. Appointments on these regional boards shall be made in the same manner as the committee on wages and working conditions.

In every case where these boards or the committee of wages and working conditions cannot agree because of an equal division of its members, the matter shall be referred to the transportation board for final decision. From this decision there is no appeal, and if the employes strike they are liable to a fine of $500 and six months in jail, or both.

WORKER TAKES RISKS IN MODERN INDUSTRY

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—The worker takes all the risks in modern industry, under the claim opposed to it, nothing to the cost of compensation, declared the secretary of the California Industrial Accident Commission in a recent speech, comparing it with what being circulated by the commission.

The commissioner declared that it is necessary to brush away the cobwebs that have fastened themselves to the workmen's compensation act.

"The word compensation is a misnomer," he said. "No amount of money can 'compensate' a mechanic for the loss of his hand and I am sure there isn't any sum paid by any of the states that will prove a real inducement for any loss to the human machine. We need to change the word compensation to one more reasonably worth while.

"I differ also with that to the so-called working man will thrust his own arm into gears or mutilate to get compensation benefits. The average man, whether he be young or old or tall or short, shrinks from pain and suffering. He doesn't want the compensation that will entail. He applies to the ditch-digger as well as to the bank president. And the same average man who is likely results in compensation, when injured, far less than the value of an arm or a finger.

"And still another cobweb is the statement that a worker pays nothing to the cost of compensation. This is a fallacy of fallacies. The cost of accidents is paid by the whole industry. He faces death and injury each hour. He, in spite of precedent, pays directly a substantial percentage of his wage when he receives half of the compensation awards stipend in the form of compensation."

WORKERS VICTIMIZED.

Washington, Nov. 1.—A delegation of striking employes of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, called the Business Agent Williams of the Machinists' union, told the senate committee on education and labor which is investigating the steel strike, that the form of collective bargaining finally agreed to by the company after last May 1 made it impossible for the employes to avoid the discharge of unionists, or to obtain the reinstatement of men who had become members of the union.

The men have been negotiating with the corporation for a year prior to the application of an award by the national war labor board, and they finally had their demands granted.

The workers called the attention of the senate committee to the report submitted last year to the national war labor board which showed that the terms the war munitions for the government were held by the company while the contracts for foreign governments were pushed to the limit because foremen and other officials had to make up the time paid a bonus by these foreign governments.

"We charge," said the unionists, "that this company, by its methods of production during the war, did not give our government the maximum of work that could be produced in this plant, that government work was neglected and that the present strike is the result of the policy of the company toward its employes and its contempt to do justice to the government."

WORKERS MUST ACT.

New York, Nov. 1.—"If there is anything in the history of the modern factory system that has been clearly established it is that you cannot make factories sanitary by labor laws, just as you cannot make people clean by issuing a sanitary code for their purpose," says Dr. George M. Price, director of the ladies' garment workers' joint board of sanitary control, writing in the Fur Worker.

"The only way," he continues, "to improve the fire protection, safety and sanitation of the factories is for the workers themselves to pay attention to these matters, to regard them as part of their immediate demands and to fight for them just as they fight for a decrease of hours and for increase of pay."

The joint board of sanitary control is maintained by the unionists and manufacturers. Inspectors are employed who make periodic visits to the shops and work rooms.

MINED COAL DUING WAR.

Washington, Nov. 1.—"The miners of this country could secure conditions they are now demanding if they took the initiative," declared Secretary Wilson said David Wallace, representative of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The British war law," said Wallace, "did not deter the miners from applying the economic power during the war. The miners of our own country adopted a different method. They broke all records and were applauded as loyal and patriotic. All these are forgotten now, and the miners are in some quarters as actually enemies of the country because they are striving to secure an improvement of their conditions."

MEAT CUTTERS WIN.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 1.—Wage increases of $5 a week for men and $2.50 a week for women were granted an agreement between Meat Cutters' union, No. 145, and the Retail Market Men's association. The new rates for meat cutters are $28 and $25 a week.

BRICK MAKERS UNITE.

Port Dodge, Iowa, Nov. 1.—Locals have been formed in this vicinity by the United Brick and Clay Workers of America and it is predicted that the industry will be 100 per cent unionized within a short time.

MINERS VS. GARYISM; PARALLEL IS DRAWN

Washington, Nov. 1.—Edgar Wallace and Walter James, representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, have issued a statement in which they compare the government's opposition to the striking miners with that of the steel strike, which was caused by Judge Gary's autocratic attitude.

"It is unfortunate that the miners," the statement says, "that the government should be driven to strike in any way to coerce such great aggregations of capital as are represented by Mr. Gary.

"Instead of publicly attacking Mr. Gary for refusing to confer with his men in his employ, the government proceeds to bring the miners to the public committee in the industrial conference.

"If the war is still on, as the operators and the government claim, the contract which the miners are accused of violating was first violated by the operators, and the government not only sanctioned this violation by the operators but made provision for it when it by legislation and thereby removed the price restriction on coal.

"The miners are penalized on the selling price of coal. Being made in war time, when coal was so urgent a necessity, the selling price was fixed at a figure on which the high-cost mines could operate. The low-cost mine that could produce at low figures was able to make enormous profits. Since the war ended the price is now limit by the government the operators have been given a free hand to raise prices than under government regulation. The operators who are accusing the miners of violating contracts are refusing to fulfil contracts made at lower figures.

"Recognizing that they can sell their coal at the mines at any price, the miners think they should not be the ones suffering from lack of coal is that the operators are selling it at inflated prices—the highest blidet profits.

"We, the miners, see by the operators' position the condition that by all employers of labor, the intent in the United States, created by the great war, the intent to use the advantages that we, with the forms of labor government, furnish them to crush the hope and aspiration of all men who work."

POLICE INDICTED.

Charlotte, N. C., Nov. 1. — The chief of police, 29 police officers, and 24 strikers during the textile strike, have been indicted for murder and assault to kill, because of the death of several persons during the recent street car strike in this city. The police officers were not arrested and the bonds were required.

When the killings occurred the coroner was ill, and later died. The fact is said that no inquest was held on the bodies. An attempt was made to hold a bodies at inquest, but the state attorney general ruled that because of the bitterness it would be impossible for the investigation and the plan to exhume the bodies was abandoned.

The Charlotte Observer says that the announcement of the conviction indictments for murder "has a more sensational ring at a distance than it has in Charlotte, where the situation is better understood. Here it is remarked that a more impartial treatment than would be the institution of a test suit in an important civil case."

ADVICE TO NEW UNION.

Fresno, Cal., Nov. 1.—The recently-organized fruit workers' union, which has had a remarkable progress, is given this advice by Editor Carnine of the Fresno Labor Journal:

"In spite of your wonderful success in organizing, you will find your success now will now enter upon the period in your career of a labor union which will try your mettle.

"Open opposition from employers, corrupt politicians, and an army of enemy to meet and overcome, compared with these sinister underterrent which will now appear in the very own ranks and which will precipitate upon you issues which must be squarely met.

"All other young organizations have had to encounter. You cannot escape. They are inevitable.

"These issues may be classified under three heads:

"1. The well-intentioned, but poorly-informed member who will bring things not enough.

"2. The well-meaning individual who would warp the true mission of your union to fit his economic or political dreams.

"3. The professional 'try-day' garden variety of stonlpigeon."

FAVOR CO-OPERATION.

Fort Scott, Kan., Nov. 1.—A temporary co-op. organization was formed by representatives of the Kansas and Missouri state federations of labor at a meeting in this city, and a call was issued for a more general convention to be held December 1, which is intended to interest the trade union movement of the two states in the co-op. theory.

STRIKE FOR 44 HOURS.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Nov. 1.—Machinists employes of one of the 11 largest plants here have suspended work to enforce the 44-hour week and wage increases.

TAILORS WIN 8 HOURS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 1.—An eight-hour day has been established by Journeymen Tailors' union No. 8 after a five-weeks' strike. A minimum of $40 has also been secured.

WEST VIRGINIA THUGS APPLY TRUST METHOD

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 1.—While outrages against steel strikers in western Pennsylvania have been in the limelight, trade unionists in this state and Ohio are calling attention to the thuggery against West Virginia steel strikers.

The strikers' committee has made public the affidavit of Mike Mihalic, employed by the Weirton Steel company, who declares that he was on strike for two days the company's private police came to his home and told him to return to work. His refusal he was taken to the company's private jail, beaten up and kept there he was kept for 72 hours and given one meal. He was then taken to the office of Weirton to buy a ticket to Pittsburg.

Trade unionists at Steubenville, across the Ohio river, were arranging to hold a parade and demonstration in honor of Governor Cox, when by Gov. Cornwell, of West Virginia, that he would prevent any such invasion." The unionists protested that the parade was intended to induce the miners of Weirton to awaken to their rights as citizens of a free country. To prove their claim that the steel company has set up a monarchy, the unionists submitted as the evidence a copy of the Miller affidavit, and suggested that the state authorities investigate the affidavit and determination to protect the property and civil rights of the workers as you have displayed in protecting those of the Weirton Steel company.

In his reply the governor ignored the strikers' claim that the parade be be impartial. His defense for prohibiting the parade was a statement that he would not "take any chances of the strikers calmed that intended to start trouble." This unsupported statement was sufficient for the governor to stop the parade.

IGNORE UNIONISM AND FAIL.

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 1.—The strike of the Newswriters' Equity union, of this city, has failed, it is admitted, says The Connecticut Labor Press, which points to the futility of the employers' efforts to operate without affiliating with the trade unions.

"Non-union newspaper writers and paper writers started a paper, which has now passed into private hands. This paper was started that the advertisers were not affiliated with the trade union movement. Again, the Connecticut Labor Press, "naturally means that the court was always in favor of the employers any fear that they might have to combat the labor movement in any way, shape or manner, views from the bondholders. An attempt was made to have the bodies exhumed, but the state attorney general ruled that because of the bitterness it would be impossible to obtain an impartial investigation and the plan to exhume the bodies was abandoned.

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NOISY SUPER-PATRIOTS BLIND TO NEW IDEALS

Washington, Nov. 1.—The blindness of noisy super-patriots who shriek "bolshevism" when men urge that the time is ripe to better the public's alarm over industrial conditions is described by Archibald M. Jamison, a Washington Times' staff man writing on the first page of that paper.

"The public apparently looks on the 'profiteer' as the root of all evil, of a clear sky," he says. "As a matter of fact it has been gathering force and momentum for a year or more. All the months when the public at large considered those screaming 'bolshevism' at those who wanted to right wrongs, the latter portent of the industrial equation the storm clouds were gathering. They are going to burst and nobody at that time was aware of it. Even now there are millions of people who refuse to believe that there is a wrong within their trade the world can go on in the good old-fashioned way.

"The next few months will determine whether the intrenched interests in the United States are sufficiently believe that 'all things are changed' and are going to precipitate a class war in this country, or will be forced to yield to the spirit of the times before it is too late. There was every indication in the Washington conference that the organized employing interests mean to start trouble. They are eager for reaction and will not yield an inch except as they are compelled.

"Another indication of a coming strike is, it will drive home to the government, the country, the people, the danger of letting the industrial situation drift as it has for the past year or so longer. In that way it will serve a good purpose.

"If the nation desires to achieve industrial democracy through peaceful, evolutionary process, it can do so."

"PROFESSIONAL DIGNITY."

Madison, Wis., Nov. 1.—"At our first meeting," says the Daily Cardinal Times, "we have the spectacle of members of the faculty being offered a 'bonus' in money for their speaking terms with the grocer and butcher.

"What is there to professional dignity? Are members of the faculty are asked to lose their self respect through bonus subsidies and extravagant salaries?

"Wouldn't it be more in keeping with their dignity and self respect for the members of the faculty to be organized in such a way as to appeal to the proper authorities and demand salaries that are in keeping with their professional standing?

"The basic principle of union labor is self respect.

"And the teachers and professors of the country will be on the same relative plane as the unorganized workers of the country unless they remain unorganized.

"If industry there is strength."

"When the great body of teachers of this country recognize this fundamental principle, the whole situation in training the mind than minding the cows."

SACCHARIN IS A DRUG.

Washington, Nov. 1.—Saccharin is a coal tar drug and is a menace to health, Dr. Carl L. Alsberg of the United States bureau of chemistry, declared in testimony before the senate committee on education and labor.

Dr. Louis (Mo.) chemical company in advertising saccharin in local newspapers as a substitute for sugar, says Alsberg, "is criminal." Saccharin is not only a menace to health, but many saccharin preparations are now pending against the company because it has labeled its product falsely.

Dr. Alsberg declares that it is an established fact that a comparatively large number of people who are living continuously close to the starvation line to economize will waste any portion of their inadequate resources upon an admittedly food or drug of no value.

District of Columbia health officials have been in opposition to the saccharin campaign. They say that saccharin is a drug, and that more than a day is the limit of safety determined by an investigating board appointed by the surgeon general of the army. This amount is equal to one-tenth of a teaspoonful.

GAINS BY METAL WORKERS.

Lake Charles, La., Nov. 1.—Sheet metal workers have raised wages from 75 cents an hour to 87½ cents.

Danville, Va., Nov. 1.—A 44-cent rate and nine hours a day has become effective to sheet metal workers in this city and they have organized.

Chicago, Nov. 1.—Officers of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance report the formation of 15 locals during the past month.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN.

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—Theatrical Stage Employes' union has secured a new agreement and improved conditions and higher wages.

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 1.—Organized labor sentiment has given cigarmakers a thousand.

FAMILY NEED, $2,262.47.

Washington, Nov. 1.—A family of five in the nation's capital needs $2,625.47 a year to live in decency and comfort, reports Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

The budget is divided as follows: Food, $778.37; housing, fuel and light, $403; miscellaneous, $646.37; clothing, $613.73. The latter is apportioned in the following manner: Husband, $136.46; wife, $136.46; boy (14 years), $66.60; girl (5 years), $63.60; boy (3 years), $47.

Dr. Meeker first estimated that $1,178.47 was necessary, but later increased this figure and stated that this first estimate represents no more than subsistence level. This is for 1919.

The last estimate provides for only one winter union suit a year for the father and mother and a quart and three-quarters of milk a day for the three children. Dr. Meeker treats every item in the family budget down to hold the budget down to what is described the lowest possible minimum of health and decency. Instruments for street car fares, which provide for transportation to and from work and necessary rides to stores and markets, but no provision for pleasure rides for pleasure. Amusements must be of the simplest kind and vacations are reduced to once in a while."

The budget does not include the purchase of second-hand clothing. "To do so," declares Dr. Meeker, "would be to invite into a charity of pauper level and would remove that element of self respect and decency which has been constantly held in mind in preparing this budget."

FARMER IS DEFENDED.

Washington, Nov. 1.—In defending the farmer against the charge of profiteering before the Capper committee, one of his colleagues in the senate to the many links in the distribution chain.

"The farmer," said the Kansas lawmaker, "does not control the price of his crop. He gets, and never has. He has to take what is given him. This profiteering is done further along the line. While speculator and gambler and gougers will get away with the most legitimate business suffers and the producer suffers.

"The price of a single pair of shoes will keep one person in bread for a year and a half. The wheat to supply the leather for the shoes will supply the leather of eight or 10 pairs of $12 shoes. The wheat in a $12 shoe is worth more than the farmer gets for the calf. Somebody in between has made the profit. The year, while the calf skin maker many pairs of shoes.

"It takes four and a half bushels of wheat to make a barrel of flour. The wheat raiser gets about $3.37 for it. The miller $12.75, the baker $15.70 and the hotel keeper $22.50. Wheat at $3 a bu is doled out in thin slices, $37."

RECORD PROFITS AMAZE.

New York, Nov. 1.—Amazing profits are disclosed in the report of the Corn Products Refining company for the year ending September 30.

The surplus is $6,686,770 after all charges, maintenance, federal taxes and preferred dividends have been paid. This is equivalent to $17.45 a share on the common stock, against $11.82 a share for the same period last year. The surplus for the three months covered by the report, is the highest that has ever been recorded in any corresponding nine-months' period.

RADICAL TALK IS GHOST.

Washington, Nov. 1.—Talk of "peds" and "revolution" in the ghost conference up by opponents of the steel strike, declared W. A. Rittenburg, of Gary, Ind., a striker, before the senate committee on education and labor.

Rittenburg declared that the only knowledge he had of "revolution" in Gary he secured from the newspapers.

BLAMES LEADERSHIP.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 1.—The leadership—or lack of leadership—of American business men who deny workers a voice in wage-making conditions, is responsible for much of the present labor unrest, declared Thomas F. Logan, Organ and Instrument Workers' union, in an address before the Madison Rotary club.

LABOR CONFERENCE IN U. S. CAPITAL.

Washington, Nov. 1.—The international labor conference convened in this city on the call of Secretary of State and President Wilson, acting under authority conferred upon him by the labor provisions of the peace treaty, which the country is entitled to four delegates—two representing the government, one the workers and one the employers. The employers' group has no legislative power. The international labor conference is a new thing in the history of employers and the trade union movements of the various countries.

The labor provisions of the peace treaty also provide for an international labor office to be located at the headquarters of the league of nations. The present conference will select the governing body of the office of the workers and employers, the governing body to have a similar balance of power. The governing body will collect and distribute information relative to industrial conditions and will make investigations received from the international conference. It will also have charge of the conference committee and the application of the principle of the eight-hour day, preventing or providing compensation for unemployment, employment of children, night work for women, the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

Neither the government or the trade unionists nor the workers or employers of the country will be represented until the senate ratifies the peace treaty. It is estimated the conference will remain in session a number of weeks.

TO CALL CONFERENCE.

Washington, Nov. 1.—As the result of a preliminary meeting between A. F. of L. officials and representatives of railroad brotherhoods and farmers' representatives, it was decided that the call for the conference determined upon by the executive council of the A. F. of L. should be issued. The conference will be held in this city on Saturday, December 13, and will consider legislation before congress and other matters of interest. A call has been issued to the various A. F. of L. international and national affiliates and railroad brotherhoods.

The representatives of the farmers' organizations present at Tuesday's conference, Gompers, "although in entire sympathy with the conference, frankly stated that they had no authority from their organizations to join in the call for the conference, but that the conventions, which would be held in a month from now, would be glad to receive invitations upon which to act and select delegates for the first conference."

VOLUNTARY ACTION BEST.

Chicago, Nov. 1.—Voluntary action in the line of conciliation of the so-called "capital" labor question, according to the American Contractor, which says the industry is ready and willing to make an appreciable approach to a solution of the problem, is the result of co-operation between capital and labor secured by the efforts of the past and the hope for future peace and prosperity in the construction industry rests in large measure on the attitude of labor leaders within the industry. It is doubtful if a more satisfactory basis for conference laboring in Washington, could be found than the agreements now workable in the construction industry. Employers and employes in the construction industry are ready, and, we believe, will work out a plan of co-operation which will safeguard the several equities and assure the public continuous production of structural necessities.

"Such progress as has been made toward the solution of the labor difficulties in England has been brought about through the voluntary league of the employers and the workers.

OPPOSE SUNDAY WORK.

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—Organized barbers in this city are making a fight against Sunday work. It is proposed that the various cities of the state of California unite on state legislation to this end.

GET $160 A MONTH.

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—The new monthly rate secured by the Piano Organ and Instrument Workers' union calls for a minimum of $160 a month.